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***Cyphostethus tristriatus* (F.) (Hem.: Acanthosomatidae) in S.E. London, and its occurrence on *Thuja orientalis* L.**

In a note recording this shieldbug from East Surrey (1984, *Ent. Rec.* **96**: 187) I hazarded a guess that it might before very long turn up in my more suburban district. This "prophecy" has now been fulfilled: on 12th May 1991, I found it to be not at all uncommon in the warm afternoon sunshine on a short boundary-hedge between my own and my neighbour's garden. This consists of young trees of Lawson Cypress (*Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*), none exceeding head height. The bugs favour one of them in particular, with large dense masses of purplish-glaucous young cones weighing down the foliage; one appeared to have its rostrum plunged right up to the base into such a cone. I have just (12th June) taken another look at this tree, and, in bright sunshine, counted a dozen of these colourful insects, including several pairs, in about as many seconds — though, strangely, none were apparent on any of the others. They are sluggish and seem to remain motionless for long periods, often half-hidden, yet conspicuous enough from their colouring.

On 12th May I detected a specimen on one of two smallish trees, also cone-bearing, of Chinese Thuja (*Thuja orientalis*) in a local park, and another on the same tree on 2nd June. (Mr Bernard Verdcourt, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, kindly identified a sample.) It seemed possible, at least up to the second date, that the *Cyphostethus* might have strayed on to this tree from nearby Lawson cypresses; but against that is the occurrence of two specimens, and (still more perhaps) my inability up to now to find the bug on any of the last-named — which is curious. Indeed, I have kept a sharp look-out for it on this and other related potential hosts elsewhere in the district, but without result up to now; these include Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) — not adequately searched — and Savin (*Juniperus sabina*). I have seldom seen berries on the latter, which may be why it seems hitherto not to harbour *C. tristriatus* notwithstanding that the bug's wild host in Britain is *J. communis*.

Though doubtless now well established in the London area, my experience suggests that the species may be very local, or perhaps situation may be important. Mr Verdcourt informs me (in litt.) that he does not know of it from Kew Gardens; he has however, a record from "cypress" in a garden at Richmond Hill (1.vii.87). A number of bugs were found, and also their blue-green eggs on the young cones.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.